

Appl. No. 09/805,950 Senior Response filed 01/31/05 to Final Office Action dated 10/19/04

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) A method of electronically transacting the purchase of a commodity, which comprises:

- a) accessing a computer database of commodity information and purchasing a quantity of a given commodity at a current time purchase time price reflected in the computer database for redemption of at least a portion of the quantity of the commodity purchased on a deferred redemption basis and providing creating a quantity credit account of said commodity purchased,
- b) storing data in the computer database for the quantity credit account in an electronically accessible format;
and
- c) subsequently accessing said stored quantity credit account data in order to redeem a part of and redeeming at least a portion of the quantity of the commodity purchased and adjusting the quantity credit account representing a to reflect the portion of the purchased quantity of commodity purchased which has been redeemed

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~~for said commodity in physical form.~~

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 6 wherein the redeeming step is repeated until the whole quantity of the purchased commodity is redeemed.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 7 wherein the redeeming steps are performed at a plurality of various locations.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 6 wherein the quantity is a bulk quantity.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 6 wherein the purchasing and redeeming steps are performed by ~~electronic means~~ over a communication network.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 6 wherein the commodity is a branded commodity and the purchasing and redeeming steps are effected with a same brand of the commodity.

12. (currently amended) A method of electronically transacting the purchase of a commodity, which comprises the steps of:

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- a) accessing a computer database of commodity information and purchasing a quantity of a given commodity at a current time purchase time price reflected on the computer database for redemption of at least a portion of the commodity purchased on a deferred redemption basis and providing creating a quantity credit account of said commodity purchased,
- b) separating said quantity credit account into discrete purchase blocks in the computer database, each block representing a different purchase made at a certain purchase time price,
- c) storing data for the quantity credit account in the computer database in an electronically accessible format,
- d) subsequently accessing said stored quantity credit account data in the computer database in order to redeem a part of at least a portion of the commodity purchased and reflected in the quantity credit account for said commodity in physical form,
- e) arranging for said redemption to deplete the earliest of said purchase blocks first until the earliest block is expended, followed by depletion of the next earliest purchase block until it is expended, the step

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continuing until the latest purchase block is expended,
and

- f) combining data in said purchase blocks to provide a weighted average purchase value of said quantity credit account.

13. (previously presented) A system for transacting the purchase of a commodity, which comprises:

- a) a commodity purchasing module for selecting and purchasing a quantity of a given commodity at a purchase time price on a deferred redemption basis and for providing a quantity credit account of said commodity;
- b) storage means for storing data reflecting the quantity credit account; and
- c) a commodity redemption module interfacing with said storage means for redeeming a part of said quantity credit account for said commodity in physical form, the system being devoid of physical commodity storage means.

14. (previously presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the

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commodity is a bulk commodity.

15. (previously presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the purchasing module is a computer server which is connected to a database.

16. (previously presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the database comprises commodity description and pricing information.

17. (previously presented) The system of claim 13, adapted to be accessible via an Internet browser.

18. (previously presented) The system of claim 13, adapted to be accessible via a point-of-sale terminal.

19. (previously presented) The system of claim 13 further comprising means for storing quantity credit account data.

20. (previously presented) The system of claim 15 wherein quantity credit account data is stored in the database.

21 . (previously presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the commodity purchasing module comprises or is operable in

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conjunction with a personalized access device.

22. (previously presented) The system of claim 20 wherein the personalized access device is a magnetic memory device.

23. (previously presented) The system of claim 13 further comprising:

- d) a means for separating said quantity credit account into discrete purchase blocks, each block representing a different purchase made at a certain purchase time price,
- e) a means for arranging for said redeeming to deplete the earliest of said purchase blocks first until the block is expended, followed by depletion of the next earliest purchase block until it is expended, the arrangement operative until the latest purchase block is expended, and
- f) a means for combining the data in said purchase blocks to provide a weighted average purchase value of said quantity credit account.